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CIA Watchdog

The White House announcement that Gen. Maxwell Taylor will serve as the President's Military Representative and as an adviser in "intelligence fields" with "the responsibility of watching the function of the intelligence apparatus of the government to assure the President that it meets the future needs of the government," gives no diagram of what will finally be done with CIA, though Mr. Kennedy has said, "We may have some changes." The changes presumably include the departure of Allen Dulles, the relocating of paramilitary functions and the separation of intelligence-gathering from the assessment of what is gathered. But this is still to come. While CIA has been shaken, it has not yet been shaken up; the Agency is going ahead with plans to move into its mammoth, new headquarters in September.

The President wishes to be certain of the reliability of the intelligence he is given; he wants to be sure that secret operations, kept secret, are intelligently directed and are consistent with foreign policies of the Administration. This is a tall order.

No one man, even with a considerable staff (which General Taylor will not have), could keep close watch over the thousands of underground CIA enterprises. A Presidential watchdog is needed. But what is needed more is a thorough inventory and reorganization of the establishment which is to be watched.